Details regarding subsidy in agriculture sector in India, as received from Central Statistical Organization (CSO), are given below:

(Rs. in crore)

SI. No.	Item	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Fertiliser (Total)	11015	11847	15879
	1.1 Indeginous fertilizer	7790	8521	10243
	1.2 Imported Fertilizer	0	0	494
	Sale of decontrolled fertilizer with concession to farmers.	3225	3326	5142
2.	Electricity **	8581	14561	15433
3.	Irrigation ##	13017	11150	12964
4.	Other subsidies given to marginal farmers and farmers Cooperative Societies in the form of seeds, development of oil seeds, pulses etc.	3179	4108	4521

Fertilizers and other subsidies given to marginal farmers Expenditure Budget 2007-08 Vol I Central Government

** :Includes all subsidies to Electricity Boards and Corporations. Separate estimates of Electricity subsidy accountable exclusively to agricultural sector are not available

: The rates for supply of water to farmers are kept low as a matter of policy, resulting in losses to the Government irrigation system. The excess of operating costs over the gross revenue is treated as imputed irrigation subsidy.

Note: The estimates are provisional.

Source: Central Statistical Organization

(c) A comprehensive credit policy was announced on 18th June 2004 to double the flow of credit to the agriculture sector in three years. From Kharif 2006-07, farmers are provided crop loan upto Rs. 3.00 lakh at 7 per cent rate of interest and the Government of India and State Governments would provide necessary interest subvention to NABARD and Banks for this purpose. A sum of Rs. 1,677 crore has been provided in the Union Budget 2007-08 for this purpose. The Special Rehabilitation Package launched in 31 specially distressed districts in four States includes debt relief to farmers also.

Subsidy for Vidarbha cotton growers

†1989. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Members of Parliament from Vidarbha in Maharashtra have submitted a memorandum in which they have demanded subsidy for cotton growers and to increase the purchase price for their crop;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) the arrangements made by Government to provide subsidy to the cotton growers in the event of crisis and to increase the purchase price for their crop in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) A group of the Members of Parliameut from Vidarbha region of Maharashtra submitted a memorandum to the Hon'ble Prime Minister in which they demanded subsidy for cotton growers and to increase the purchase price for their crop. The Ministry of Agriculture provided required inputs to the Prime Minister Office in March, 2007.

(c) With a view to ensure remunerative prices to the cotton farmers, the Government of India announces the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for varieties of cotton every year on the basis of the recommendations of Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). The MSP for the two basic varieties of cotton in the country are given below for the year 2006-07 and 2007-08:

(Rs. per Quintal)

Cotton variety	Minimum Support Price (MSP) 2006-07	2007-08	Increase in MSP in 2007-08 over 2006-07
F-41/H-777/J-34	1770	1800	30
H4	1990	2030	40

Corporate farming

1990. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are lots of shortcomings while promoting corporate farming in the country;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto;

(c) whether Government are taking any initiatives for making long term transparent policies for making corporate farming successful in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the details of steps taken or proposed to set up strong systems to moitor contracts and corporate farming so as to avoid exploitation of the workers/growers and farmers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHUR1A): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Agriculture is promoting contract farming in the country, in which corporate agencies or others enter into agreement, of purchase of agricultural produce with the producers, but, it is not promoting corporate farmmg m the country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise with respect to corporate farming, however, in order to put required systems in place for contract farming arrangements, suitable